

What is claimed is:

Claims

1. A method for presenting program information on a television screen, comprising:
 - displaying a plurality of sectors of program information in a layout, each sector in the layout relating to a different genre of program information, each sector spanning from a generally central area of the layout to a generally peripheral area of the layout, and each sector encompassing a plurality of program listings;
 - displaying at least one cell within each sector, each cell showing one of the program listings;
 - indicating that one of the cells in the layout is selected;
 - upon user interaction, panning between program listings within one of the sectors to indicate that a different program listing is selected; and
 - upon user interaction, panning between sectors of the layout.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the layout is shaped as a rectangle with four sectors.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the layout includes a center cell, the center cell being disposed within all of the sectors.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising presenting advertising information in a center cell of the layout.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein each sector spans from the center cell to the generally peripheral area of the layout.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein each sector contains one cell.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the layout is generally circular in shape.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising presenting advertising information in a center cell of the layout.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein each sector spans from the center cell to the generally peripheral area of the layout.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein each sector contains a plurality of cells, wherein one of the cells within each sector is larger than the other cells in that sector.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the larger cell within each sector is the only cell in that sector that can be selected.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein each sector is separated from adjacent sectors by lines extending radially from the generally central area of the layout to the generally peripheral area of the layout.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the cells within each sector are separated by generally concentric circles positioned radially from the generally central area of the layout.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein panning between program listings includes keeping a common cell selected and rotating program listings into the common cell.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein each sector has a first cell and a second cell, the first cell being the selected cell, and wherein panning between program listings includes rotating one of the program listings from the second cell to the first cell and displaying a new program listing in the second cell.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein panning between program listings includes moving the selected cell from a first cell to a second cell within one of the sectors.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting an information box displaying further details about the program listing in the selected cell.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a channel number within each cell of the layout.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a program name within each cell of the layout.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a genre name adjacent each sector of the layout.

21. An apparatus for presenting program information on a television screen, comprising:
a memory storing a program;
a processor in communication with the memory; in which the processor is directed by the program to:

display a plurality of sectors of program information in a layout, each sector in the layout relating to a different genre of program information, each sector spanning from a generally central area of the layout to a generally peripheral area of the layout, and each sector encompassing a plurality of program listings;

display at least one cell within each sector, each cell showing one of the program listings;

indicate that one of the cells in the layout is selected;

upon user interaction, pan between program listings within one of the sectors to indicate that a different program listing is selected; and

upon user interaction, pan between sectors of the layout.

22. An apparatus for presenting program information on a monitor, comprising:

circuitry that receives program information from a distribution facility, wherein the circuitry is configured to display the program information in a television program guide including:

a layout having a plurality of sectors of program information, each sector in the layout relating to a different genre of program information, each sector extending from a generally central area of the layout to a generally peripheral area of the layout, and each sector encompassing a plurality of program listings;

at least one cell organized and displayed within each sector, each cell displaying one of the program listings; and

an indicator that one of the cells in the layout is selected.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the layout includes a center cell, the center cell being disposed within all of the sectors.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the layout includes a center cell presenting advertising information.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein each sector spans from the center cell to the generally peripheral area of the layout.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein each sector contains one cell.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein the layout is generally circular in shape.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein each sector is separated from adjacent sectors by lines extending radially from the generally central area of the layout to the generally peripheral area of the layout.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the cells within each sector are separated by generally concentric circles positioned radially from the generally central area of the layout.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein panning between program listings includes keeping a common cell selected and rotating program listings into the common cell.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein each sector has a first cell and a second cell, the first cell being the selected cell, and wherein panning between program listings includes rotating

one of the program listings from the second cell to the first cell and displaying a new program listing in the second cell.

32. The method of claim 22, wherein panning between program listings includes moving the selected cell from a first cell to a second cell within one of the sectors.

33. A method for presenting program information, comprising:

receiving program information for a television program guide from a distribution facility; in response to the program information for a television program guide,

displaying a plurality of sectors of program information in a layout, each sector in the layout relating to a different genre of program information, each sector spanning from a generally central area of the layout to a generally peripheral area of the layout, and each sector encompassing a plurality of program listings;

displaying at least one cell within each sector, each cell showing one of the program listings;

indicating that one of the cells in the layout is selected;

upon user interaction, panning between program listings within one of the sectors to indicate that a different program listing is selected; and

upon user interaction, panning between sectors of the layout.

34. A method for providing program information, comprising:

transmitting information for a television program guide to a user, the television program guide including:

a layout having a plurality of sectors of program information, each sector in the layout relating to a different genre of program information, each sector extending from a generally central area of the layout to a generally peripheral area of the layout, and each sector encompassing a plurality of program listings;

at least one cell organized and displayed within each sector, each cell displaying one of the program listings; and

an indicator that one of the cells in the layout is selected.

35. A television program guide, comprising:

a layout having a plurality of sectors of program information, each sector in the layout relating to a different genre of program information, each sector extending from a generally central

area of the layout to a generally peripheral area of the layout, and each sector encompassing a plurality of program listings;

at least one cell organized and displayed within each sector, each cell displaying one of the program listings; and

an indicator that one of the cells in the layout is selected.